



What's New in the Draft National Response Framework

Name: The *National Response Plan* has been renamed the *National Response Framework* to better align the document with its intent and to encourage the continued development and refinement of detailed, robust all-hazards emergency operations plans.

Objective: To revise the *National Response Plan* into a more user friendly document that is easier to read and better reflects a national approach to domestic incident response.

Scope: The *Framework* provides structures for implementing national-level policy and operational coordination for domestic incident response. In this document, incidents include actual or potential emergencies or all-hazard events that range from accidents and natural disasters to actual or potential terrorist attacks. They include modest events wholly contained within a single community to others that are catastrophic in nature and national in their scope of consequences.

Audience: The *Framework* is intended for executives and emergency management practitioners at all levels of government, as well as private sector, and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs).

Key Concepts: An effective, unified national response requires layered, mutually supporting capabilities, with States having the primary responsibility for public health and welfare of its citizens. Five elemental principles of operation animate incident effective incident response:

- Engaged partnerships
- Tiered response
- Scalable, flexible and adaptable operational capabilities
- Unity of effort through unified command
- Readiness to act

Expands Focus to Include All Partners: The *Framework* states that an effective national response requires layered, mutually supporting capabilities. This approach affirms that States, Territories and Tribal Nations have primary responsibility for the safety and security of their citizens; that local leaders build the foundation for response and that resilient communities being with prepared individuals and families.

Planning Section: The *Framework* contains a section that focuses on the critical importance of planning. The goal is to provide the means to:

- Link planning, preparedness, resource and asset management processes, and data in a virtual environment;
- Prioritize plans and planning efforts to best support homeland security strategies and allow seamless transition to execution; and
- Provide parallel and concurrent planning at all levels of government.

Annexes and Appendixes: The Emergency Support Functions, Support and Incident Annexes and Appendixes have been updated, expanded and remain an integral part of the *Framework*. These documents are available on-line at www.fema.gov/nrf along with other reference material.

Guides for Response Partners: New partner guides are available for community, State, Federal and private sector partners to assist them in applying the *Framework's* principles for a coordinated, effective National response. Each guide provides a detailed description of roles and responsibilities; response structures; key actions before, during and after an incident; and ways to request and/or provide assistance. These sections are intended to provide an overview of how these various organizations organize and operate, and how they interact with each other to provide a unified, national response.

Terms:

- **Incident of National Significance.** The term Incident of National Significance has been eliminated in favor of a more agile coordinated response by the entire incident management community. The designation of an Incident of National Significance became an arbitrary trigger point for various levels of response activities.
- **Unified Coordination Group and Staff.** The terms Joint Field Office (JFO) Coordination Group and JFO Coordination Staff have been replaced with Unified Coordination Group and Staff, respectively. This is consistent with the National Incident Management System command and management principles.
- **Senior Officials.** The term Senior Federal Official (SFO), a designation of a particular representative in the Unified Coordination Group, has been replaced with the term “Senior Officials” to broaden the scope of representation. This will allow for State, Tribal or even private sector representatives to serve in the Unified Coordination Group, if necessary.
- **Incident Management Assist Teams (IMATs).** IMATs will soon replace existing Emergency Response Teams (ERTs) at the national and regional level as well as the Federal Incident Response Support Teams (FIRST).
- **Deletion of Incident Advisory Council (IAC).** The May 2006 Notice of Change created an Incident Advisory Council at the Federal headquarters level. That entity no longer exists.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- **Principal Federal Official (PFO).** The Principal Federal Official will coordinate the activities of other Federal officials, acting under their own authorities, to ensure consistency of Federal support as well as the overall effectiveness of Federal incident management.
- **Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO).** For Stafford Act events, the FCO is the focal point of coordination within the Unified Coordination Group, ensuring overall integration of Federal emergency management, resource allocation, and seamless integration of Federal activities in support of, and in coordination with State, tribal and local requirements.

- **Senior Federal Law Enforcement Official (SFLEO).** The *Framework* indicates that the SFLEO is appointed by the Attorney General during an incident requiring a coordinated Federal response to coordinate all law enforcement, public safety, and security operations with intelligence/investigative law enforcement operations directly related to the incident.
- **Joint Task Force (JTF) Commander.** Based on the magnitude, type of incident and anticipated level of resource involvement, the DOD may utilize a JTF to command Federal military forces in support of the incident response. A JTF commander exercises operational control of all allocated DOD resources (excluding U.S. Army Corps of Engineers). The use of a JTF does not replace the requirement for a Defense Coordinating Officer and the JTF does not coordinate requests for assistance from the Department of Defense.

Major Changes in Annex Functions*

While there are many proposed changes to annexes such as addition of Support Agencies or responsibilities, only the major fundamental changes which are essential to the execution of the annex functions before the next release are listed below.

- **ESF #6 – Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing and Human Services.** ESF #6 is expanded in scope to include emergency assistance, the aid required by individuals, families, and their communities to ensure that immediate needs beyond the scope of the traditional “mass care” services. These services include: support to evacuations (including registration and tracking of evacuees); reunification of families; pet evacuation and sheltering; support to specialized shelters; support to medical shelters; non-conventional shelter management; coordination of donated goods and services; and coordination of voluntary agency assistance. DHS/FEMA executes the emergency assistance activity. In addition, the American Red Cross is no longer a primary agency for mass care; that responsibility has transferred to DHS/FEMA.
- **ESF #9 – Search and Rescue.** ESF #9 is expanded from its original scope of urban search and rescue to incorporate Structure Collapse (Urban) Search and Rescue, Waterborne Search and Rescue, Inland/Wilderness Search and Rescue, and Aeronautical Search and Rescue.
- **ESF #10 – Oil and Hazardous Materials Response.** ESF #10 has incorporated additional responsibilities from the now defunct Oil and Hazardous Materials Incident Annex.
- **ESF #11 – Agriculture and Natural Resources.** ESF #11 added a fifth primary function of Safety and Well-Being of Household Pets. Under USDA, ESF #11 will coordinate and support an integrated Federal, State, tribal, and local response to ensure the safety and well-being of household pets. Supported activities include the evacuation, transportation, sheltering, husbandry, and veterinary care of affected animals as mandated in the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2006.

- **ESF #13 – Public Safety and Security.** ESF #13 has expanded its scope to include general law enforcement.
- **Critical Infrastructure/Key Resources (CI/KR) Support Annex.** A new annex was developed which details processes to ensure coordination and integration of CI/KR-related activities among a wide array of public and private incident managers and CI/KR security partners within immediate incident areas as well as at the regional and national levels. DHS is the Coordinating Agency.
- **Volunteer & Donations Management Support Annex.** The Volunteer and Donations Management Support Annex includes a function to facilitate collection and tracking of offers of goods and services to enable effective matching of offers through a website. The annex also addresses international donations. Private sector and other high level offers of donations and volunteer are supported by the DHS Private Sector Office.
- **Food and Agriculture Incident Annex.** The Food and Agriculture Incident Annex describes the roles and responsibilities associated with all incidents that require a coordinated Federal response involving the Nation’s agriculture and food systems. While this Annex was released in Summer of 2006, it was released independently from other NRP documents. The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Department of Health and Human Services are the Coordinating Agencies for the Food and Agriculture Incident Annex.
- **Mass Evacuation Incident Annex.** This Annex identifies the agencies and organizations involved in a federally supported mass evacuation operation; defines the roles and responsibilities of Federal entities in planning, preparing for, and conducting mass evacuations in support of State, tribal, and local authorities; establishes the criteria under which Federal support to mass evacuations is provided; and provides a concept of operations for Federal mass evacuation support. DHS/FEMA is the Coordinating Agency for the Mass Evacuation Incident Annex.
- **Oil and Hazardous Materials Incident Annex.** The Oil and Hazardous Materials Incident Annex no longer exists. Its material was very similar, and in some cases duplicative, of information in ESF #10, to include primary agencies and actions. Therefore, ESF #10 subsumed any remaining elements of this Incident Annex.